

Public Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

Riverside Agricultural Park Site Off-Site Evaluation Community Work Group

Background: Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), provided lead regulatory oversight for the removal of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Riverside Agricultural Park property located at 7020 Crest Avenue in Riverside. The property is vacant and fenced. It is bordered by Crest Avenue, Rutland Avenue and the Santa Ana River, and is currently planned for residential development. The Riverside Ag Park was cleaned up, and DTSC determined that no further action was needed for the property in the spring of 2014. However, because of high community interest and concern, DTSC collaborated with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to re-evaluate the cleanup. In September and November 2015, DTSC found consistently low-levels of PCBs on the property consistent with its previous determination that no further action was necessary. However, a few areas with elevated PCBs will need excavation and removal. This additional removal is currently underway.

Community members and an advocacy group have shared two primary concerns with DTSC;

1. First that PCB contaminated dust may have moved from the Riverside Ag Park and settled in the neighborhood. DTSC has established a process to evaluate this concern which will be shared with the advocacy group;
2. Second, some residents have concerns about their health and that of their children, pets, and families. DTSC has a limited regulatory jurisdiction that does not include the evaluation of health issues. The City of Riverside has petitioned the Agency for the Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) to conduct a health assessment of the area, and DTSC and the City are collaborating to bring these issues to the attention of the local health agency.

DTSC is proposing the establishment of a Riverside Ag Park Off-Site Community Work Group to provide input and feedback on the process to determine if PCBs may have moved from the Riverside Ag Park and settled in the neighborhood.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? DTSC is setting up a Community Off-Site Work Group (Work Group) where residents living in the Ag Park neighborhood, and other diverse community stakeholders can participate in a collaborative dialogue with DTSC and other local government agencies. The purpose and role of the Work Group is to provide feedback on off-site activities to be considered, if any, which could include testing, and to ensure that decision-making information is shared with the community. Although community health issues will not be included as a focus for the Work Group, DTSC is prepared to support the City of Riverside in their effort to seek assistance from ATSDR.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BE CONSIDERED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORK GROUP? Interested community members may apply for membership via application, and if selected, participate in monthly meetings. To apply for membership, go to www.dtsc.ca.gov/AgPark. You may also contact Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist via e-mail at Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov or at (714) 484-5354 to request an application. **Applications for Work Group membership must be received by DTSC no later than May 18th, 2016** for membership consideration. DTSC will review applications received and select up to five members with diverse representation for Work Group membership to participate in monthly meetings. All Work Group meetings will be open to the public even if you are not selected for Work Group membership.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED: TTY users may use the California Relay Service @ 711 or 1-800-855-7100. You may also contact the Public Participation Specialist listed at the end of this update.



WHEN/WHERE WILL THE WORK GROUP MEET? Work Group meetings will meet the second Wednesday of every month, beginning in June through November 2016. **The first meeting will be held June 8th, 2016, 6pm to 8pm, at Norte Vista High School, Classroom #105 (next to the front gate of the school), 6585 Crest Avenue, Riverside, 92503.**

WHERE DO I FIND PROJECT DOCUMENTS? – Ag Park project documents are available for electronic review at www.dtsc.ca.gov/AgPark or www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov. You may also review hard copy documents at our DTSC office, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA, 90630-4732, by making an appointment with Jone Barrio, DTSC File Room Coordinator, at (714) 484-5300.

WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION – If you are interested in applying to be a member of the Work Group, please see instructions above. For questions please contact Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, e-mail: Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov, or directly at (714) 484-5354.

